

Correction of three historical bird records from Libya

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Correction de trois mentions historiques d'oiseaux en Libye. Trois spécimens collectés par Toschi en Libye en 1939, s'avèrent avoir été mal identifiés : deux Pouillots fitis *Phylloscopus trochilus* sont en fait des Pouillots véloces *P. collybita* et un traquet libellé comme Traquet motteux *Oenanthe oenanthe* est un Traquet du désert *O. deserti*. Ces mentions constituaient les seuls données hivernales pour les espèces en question, à part quelques mentions plus anciennes du Pouillots fitis qui sont probablement également erronées. Il y a toutefois des observations hivernales récentes du Pouillot fitis et du Traquet motteux dans le pays.

Three major reviews of Libyan birds have been published: Zavattari (1934), Toschi (1969) and Bundy (1976). They contain most details of the original literature sources and historical skin collections. Inevitably, they also contain a few errors and inaccuracies. We found evidence of three such cases while cataloguing the bird collection at the Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (ISPRA; formerly the Istituto Nazionale Fauna Selvatica) in Ozzano Emilia, Italy. Here we came across Augusto Toschi's series of Libyan skins, originally published by Toschi (1947). Three specimens proved to have been misidentified by the collector, namely:

- Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* no. 10150, shot February 1939 in the Fezzan. Correct species: Common Chiffchaff *P. collybita*.
- Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* no. 10151, shot 5 February 1939 at Brak, Fezzan. Correct species: Common Chiffchaff *P. collybita*.
- Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* no. 9996, shot 31 January 1939 at Mizdah, western Libya. Correct species: Desert Wheatear *O. deserti*, female.

Only the latter two specimens were mentioned by Toschi (1969) and none were included in Bundy (1976). According to these authorities, there are no other winter records of either species in Libya, apart from a few of Willow Warbler from December–January taken by previous collectors, and retained without examination by Toschi

(1969), but these are probably erroneous too (see, however, Brehme *et al.* 2002–06 for recent winter observations of both species). The correct species are considered to be regular winter visitors, and are common at this season. The identity of the remaining 151 preserved specimens (of the original 154: Toschi 1947) appeared correct, at least at the species level.

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